

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14, of which claims 1, 8, 10, and 11 are independent. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, and 15-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. No claims have been added.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiners indication that claims 3, 4, 8, 10, and 15 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 depended directly from claim 1. As such, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 and therefore claim 1 now corresponds to claim 3 having been rewritten in independent form and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 8 has been rewritten into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claim 1 and claim 7, from which it depended. Claim 8 is now in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 10 has also been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 9. Thus, claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 15 depended directly from claim 11 and the subject matter of claim 15 has been incorporated into claim 11. Thus, claim 11 corresponds to claim 15 having been rewritten into independent form and is now in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, each of independent claims 1, 8, 10, and 11 is now in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 4, 9, 13, and 14 depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above allowable independent claims and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence A. Stahl
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LAS:eyw

DC_MAIN 198126v1